

Annual Statement for the Board of Governors, Kirkstall Valley Primary School, July 2017



In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Kirkstall Valley Primary School Board of Governors are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it's money is well spent.

Governance arrangements	<p>The Board of Governors was reconstituted in 2014 and is now made up of: 2 staff governors which includes the Head Teacher, 1 Local Authority appointed governor, 4 co-opted governors and 5 parent governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Board of Governors and currently all come from the local community. They have the relevant skills to be effective members of the Board. The Board of Governors are also supported by 2 Associate Governors who are the Office Manager with budget responsibilities and the Site Manager with Health & Safety responsibilities. As at July 2017 there are no vacancies on the Board.</p> <p>The Board of Governors meet 3 times per year (once per term) with extra-ordinary meetings being called if necessary. The rest of the work is undertaken at committee level or by individual governors with specific responsibilities. The committees at Kirkstall Valley are: Teaching & Learning (previously known as Curriculum), Resources which considers finances, premises and personnel issues (previously known as Finance & Staffing), Pupil Support, and Pay Appeals committees. Additionally, we have a Strategic Planning Group, which all governors are a member of. This group meets at timely intervals to discuss a specific topic that requires attention, for example a focus on attendance or to review the school improvement plan.</p>
Attendance record of governors	<p>Attendance of governors is good and we have never had to cancel a meeting because it wasn't quorate (the number of governors needed to ensure that decisions meet legal requirements).</p>
The work that we have done	<p>The Governing Body has had a busy but enjoyable year, focusing on school improvement and building on the success of our 'Good' Ofsted inspection (2014). We continued to support Mrs Richardson as she continued to consolidate her own development as a new Head Teacher.</p> <p>We have been fully involved with the design of a new Good Behaviour Policy which saw us working closely with several members of the school staff team. We have been proud to support the school with the introduction of Restorative Practice techniques which underpin the new Good Behaviour Policy and we can see this having a positive impact on the pupils and the learning environment.</p> <p><u>The Teaching & Learning Committee</u> has spent significant time reviewing the quality of teaching and learning with the leadership team, with a view to ensure that the high expectations of the school are achieved. SATs results are reviewed each year by the committee in respect of their performance against previous years and other schools locally and nationally. This year has required a greater focus due to staffing difficulties and particular cohort characteristics in Year 6, against a national backdrop of changing assessment systems which unfortunately contributed to lower SATs results than we would have liked.</p>

	<p>The <u>Resources Committee</u> look at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. Early in the summer term, we approved the 2017/18 budget plan for the school; we are pleased to report that the school is in a healthy position financially and can afford to operate the staffing plan which has been very carefully considered before being communicated to parents. We are certain that this will produce significant benefits across the school. We are also pleased that we have been able to maintain the school premises to a high standard and fund some improvements to indoor and outdoor spaces. The committee also look at the appraisal process and associated pay decisions. They are kept abreast of staffing changes to ensure that any impacts on pay/the budget are considered. 3 members of the Resources Committee make up the Performance Management panel. They meet with the Head Teacher twice a year to set and review the Head Teacher objectives, ensuring that these objectives are in line with school improvement priorities.</p> <p>Some individual governors have responsibility for specific items, for example how the school spends the Pupil Premium funding effectively or Safeguarding and ensuring that appropriate checks are made on all people who come into contact with the children. Those governors undertake training to ensure their competence, then they undertake visits targeted on that subject and then report back their findings to all governors.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Governing Body is looking forward to supporting the school in 2017/18 and continuing on our way to 'Outstanding'. In particular, they will be supporting with plans for Teaching & Learning and ensuring that SATs results for 2016 are a dip rather than a trend.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents; please contact the Chair of Governors, Sam Clarke, via the school office or by emailing s.clarke@kirkstallvalley.org.uk Or talk to any of us when you see us around school. You can see the full list of governors, their attendance at meetings, and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.</p>